

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-05 H-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1435

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO HANOI

1. PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL REPORTED INFORMALLY TO US
REP THE DETAILS OF HIS RECENT VIETNAM VISIT.

2. HE WAS RECEIVED BY PHUNG THE TAI (DGCA WITH
MINISTERIAL RANK), THE "MANAGER OF INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS" FOR CIVIL AVIATION, AND OTHERS. MEETINGS
WERE IN ENGLISH WITH TRANSLATOR FOR DGCA (FROM
VIETNAMESE), SOCIAL LANGUAGE FRENCH. FIRST DAY
VIETNAMESE MADE THEIR PRESENTATION, SECOND DAY
PRESIDENT MADE HIS, THIRD DAY WAS GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND DECISIONS.

3. REGARDING VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP: THEY WILL ASSUME
THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP AS OF DAY OF UNIFICATION YEAR
AND A HALF AGO. PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL ADVISED THEM OF
THE ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS (CONTRIBUTIONS) WHICH
THEY WERE AGREEABLE TO. (FYI THEY ARE SENDING A
13-MAN DELEGATION TO THE ASSEMBLY. END FYI).

4. REGARDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, THEY AGREED
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TO ACCEPT AN ICAO MAN FROM THE BANGKOK REGIONAL
OFFICE FOR ONE WEEK TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND
MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TWO ICAO TECHNICAL PEOPLE
TO PROCEED TO VIETNAM FOR TWO MONTHS TO ESTABLISH
PRIORITY AND COSTS FOR NECESSARY IMPLEMENTATION
IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
OPERATIONS. (FYI APPARENTLY TA DISCUSSIONS

WERE COMPLICATED BECAUSE OF A \$14 MILLION "SHOPPING LIST" WHICH THEY HANDED TO HAMMARSKJOLD, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IATA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. THEY WERE NOT CLEAR (OR PREFERRED NOT TO BE) ABOUT THE MAKE-UP OF IATA AND ICAO, AND RELATION TO A \$49 MILLION UNDP-IPF. APPARENTLY THE SHOCKED HAMMARSKJOLD ENDEAVORED TO EXPLAIN THAT IATA WAS NOT IN THE TA BUSINESS. HOWEVER, THIS "SHOPPING LIST" WAS REFERRED TO IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL WHO WAS ABLE TO SIDETRACK IT AND PUT ATTENTION ON REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION ICAO REGIONAL PLAN.

5. REGARDING PRESENT OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, THE CONTINGENCY PLAN AND ATSR 85, THE VIETNAMESE WANTED ICAO TO WITHDRAW IT BUT DISCUSSION LED TO CLARIFICATION, AND AGREEMENT THAT ROUTING WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO OPEN THE OTHER ROUTES. ICAO HAD CONSULTED HONG KONG AND MANILA AND THE GROUNDWORK HAS BEEN LAID FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION. THE VIETNAMESE AGREED THAT ICAO SHOULD "TELL THEM THE ROUTES" THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REOPEN SERVICES. THEY STATED THAT MAJOR AIRLINES WILL BE SERVING HANOI AND OVER-FLYING BEFORE THE END OF 1977 (SINCE HANOI AIRPORT CAN TAKE TURBOS ONLY, A NEARBY FORMER MILITARY AIRPORT IS BEING OPENED AND THE RUNWAY

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LENGTHENED FROM 2800 METERS TO 3800 METERS). MAJOR AIRLINES MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY FOR SERVICE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WERE AIR FRANCE, JAPAN, BELGIUM AND AUSTRALIA(?).

6. REGARDING OVERFLIGHT CHARGES, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL TOUCHED ON PROBLEM BUT DID NOT PRESSURE, LEAVING WITH THEM COPY OF ICAO'S CHARGING PRINCIPLES. THEY DID DISCUSS CHARGES OF \$200/250 INSTEAD OF \$1,000. (FYI PRESIDENT FEELS THIS PROBLEM IS UNDER CONTROL AND WILL SORT ITSELF OUT AS THE ROUTES REOPEN AND SERVICES BEGIN.)

7. REGARDING THE REOPENING OF VIETNAM AIRLINES, PRESIDENT AGREED TO MEET WITH THE THAIS TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS. HE DID THIS AFTER HANOI AND GAINED AGREEMENT WITH THE THAIS FOR A MEETING DURING THE UPCOMING ASSEMBLY, IN HIS OFFICE IN MONTREAL. THIS HAS NOW BEEN ARRANGED WITH ALL PARTIES. PRESIDENT WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA MEETING AND WITH THE DECISIONS THAT WERE MADE. HE TOLD US REP THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE

MENTION OF THE US AND THAT WAS ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL STATEMENTS REFERRING TO THEIR MANY YEARS OF WAR WITH JAPAN, FRANCE AND THE US, AND THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION.

8. PRESIDENT WAS DELIGHTED WITH OUTCOME, CONFIDENT THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE THOROUGH AND THE COMMITMENTS REAL. HE WILL KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS AND THE TIME AND DATE OF THE VIETNAM/THAI/ICAO MEETING. HE HAS BRIEFED THE UK COUNCIL REP (IN LESS DETAIL) BECAUSE OF HONG KONG, AND WILL SEND BRIEF MEMO TO ALL COUNCIL REPS FOR INFO IN NEXT WEEK OR TWO.

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9. IN GENERAL, THE PRESIDENT WAS DISMAYED BY THE INADEQUACY OF AVIATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE REGION, INCLUDING ABSENCE/UNRELIABILITY OF SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. HIS DEPARTURE FROM HANOI WAS DELAYED 24 HOURS BECAUSE THE AEROFLOT FLIGHT (ILYUSHIN-18 FROM MOSCOW-TASHKENT-DELHI-RANGOON-VIETNAM-HANOI) DID NOT ARRIVE. EMBARRASSED VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS SUGGESTED HE CONSIDER VISITING BANGLADESH BECAUSE A FLIGHT WAS GOING THERE. SINCE THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT PLANNED TO VISIT BANGLADESH AND HAD NO REASON TO PROCEED TO BANGLADESH (AND DID NOT WANT TO TAKE THE ALTERNATIVE--A FERRYBOAT AND A BUS), HE WAITED 24 HOURS FOR ANOTHER RANGOON FLIGHT.
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